

Rev. J. R. Barbours.

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Charlton Centre April 3. 1839.

My Dear Bro. Phelps

I drop you this line to say two or three things. I want to get you to help me about a little matter, & then I will help you about a little matter. What I want is a little money & what you want is a little money. Will you help me & I will help you. Don't laugh, ~~that~~ ~~are~~ ~~rain~~ ~~water~~ ~~should~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~water~~ ~~to~~ ~~get~~ ~~money~~ I know you have none of the thing wanted, but still I hear one though & then perhaps you can put me in the way of getting what I want.

1. When my wife died 2 years ago I was about \$1000 in debt, & am so still. This is the result of a \$500. debt for my education with which I entered the ministry & then 11 years sickness of my first wife, & 3 years sickness of my second.

2. I have property more than enough to pay my debts besides a life insurance of £1000.

3. Thus as three years since I made up my mind to train up my boys to the silk & mulberry business, as the best thing I could do with them - having been long more or less conversant with that business. Accordingly I made a small investment at first

only \$5. and afterwards a little more, and
then a few ~~shallow~~ little more. In the
meanwhile my trees were ^{fast} multiplying.
Last fall I bought a few more of other
varieties. This spring I have made an ar-
rangement with a nephew, a first
rate business man, to come to Chartam
I invest \$500. or \$1000. in the business, ^{I give a little more of land} and
take my boys, I stock of trees, eggs &c.
I carry on the business. This plan re-
cuses to me a first rate man to be
with my boys all the time, relieves
me from care &c &c. It is just the thing.
Now what I want is to raise \$500. to
increase my stock. One half of the usual
crop of trees, I at one fourth the present
prices, will give a profit of one hundred
per cent in six months. ^{And my nephew, I can} ^{can plant & easily take} ^{care of more than one him.}

4. You mentioned in your letter to me
in regard to the new paper, the Abolitionist
that you had subscribed \$500, in regard to
the matter. The paper must be sustained
at any rate. It appears to me to be vital
to the interests of the cause in this state.
But there will undoubtedly be a
large deficit to be made up by the friends
of the paper. I feel greatly interested in the
great cause, & hope in the fall to be able to do

something for it. My present stock of this will,
at the rate above stated, that is, half a crop, & at
our fourth of present prices pay my debts, & some-
thing more. Now my proposition is this. If
you can, among our abolition friends, in
any way, get me \$500. for 6 or 8 months
I will take \$100. of your pledge to the paper.
One thing is certain, you ought not to pay
the \$500. But perhaps you have already rolled
off the responsibility upon me, or such part
of it that you feel at rest respecting the
matter. If so, I ^{and you} will get me
the money, ^{stating} I will engage
you the \$100 proposed, to
be applied to the support
of the paper, or the cause

in any way as you may choose. I can
think about the matter a little & see if you
can make the thing bear. I have no married
friends near of whom I should be likely to
get what I want, nor do I know how
to spare time to go east or any where
to get it. Therefore I write as I have.

I shall probably leave Charleston ere long. We
have been involved in a ^{violent} sum excitement
for 18 months. Besides, I ventured to go out of
Charleston to get me a good wife, ~~where~~ and this
~~expense~~ kindled a back fire. But nothing

can be said of this ^{last} thing. I have at times
thought whether I might not in the sum-
mer or fall devote myself to the cause of
the slave for a few years. If the silk business
should continue to do any thing like what it
now promises, my sons & nephew can
easily do enough to give me a handsome

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Rev. A. A. Phelps
Boston
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support. But the Lord will direct. I shall
close my ministry here in July. unless something
new turns up. But this will not interfere any
way with the matter arranged for my boys
& nephew.

Very truly

Yours J. R. Barber

P.S. Write me soon - the sooner the better.